

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

DECENNIAL REVIEW AGENDA

29 AUGUST 1994

8:00 A.M. SIGN IN: get name tags and coffee.

8:30 A.M. OPENING REMARKS:

Ed Cohen, Director, Information Management:
WELCOME and Statement of Purpose

Ken McDonald, Chief, History Staff:
OVERVIEW

Scott Koch, CIA Historian:
Statement re Office of Security

Kevin Ruffner, CIA Historian:
Statement re Directorate of Science and Technology

Mike Warner, CIA Historian:
Statement re Directorate of Operations

9:30 A.M. REMARKS FROM THE GUESTS

Order indicated by sign in-sheet unless one defers to later time slot by mutual consent.
Suggested limit to 10 minutes each.

10:00 - 10:15 A.M. BREAK

11:30 A.M. DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Moderated by Ed Cohen

12:30 P.M. SESSION ENDS

Depart with escort to front door or take tour of portrait gallery, history museum and employee store, then depart with escort to front door.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: NOV 2006

Directorate of Science and Technology
Decennial Review of Designated Files

The CIA Information Act of 1984 states that “only those files that document the means by which foreign intelligence or counterintelligence is collected through scientific and technical means may be recommended for designation.” As a consequence of this law, the Director of Central Intelligence approved the following files of the Directorate of Science and Technology to be exempt from searches under the Freedom of Information Act (these are listed in the *Federal Register*):

- a. Imagery Analysis and Exploitation files. These are files that document the scientific and technical methods used in the collection, analysis, and exploitation of photographic intelligence and other imagery for foreign intelligence and counterintelligence.
- b. Signal Intelligence files. These are files which document scientific and technical methods used in the collection, analysis, and exploitation of electromagnetic signals for foreign intelligence and counterintelligence.
- c. Operations and Technical Support files. These are files which document scientific and technical methods used in support of human intelligence source operations in the collection of foreign intelligence and counterintelligence.
- d. Intelligence Collection Systems files. These are files which document the use of other scientific and technical methods in conjunction with clandestine operations in collecting foreign intelligence and counterintelligence.

In working with the DS&T for this decennial review, the History Staff learned that the Directorate does not maintain its records in distinct files, as described above. There is no separate “file” for Intelligence Collection Systems, for example, or any of the other designated files. Records do not contain special codes that allow a reviewer to determine whether they are exempt. Rather, documents of all types are interspersed throughout the

DS&T's components and at the Agency's records center. As will be discussed shortly, the DS&T must search all of its records in response to a FOIA request. With the exception of requests for imagery analysis and exploitation files, no FOIA request is automatically declared exempt by the DS&T until after a search has been made and the records have been examined.

The Deputy Director for Science and Technology is responsible for directing and coordinating the activities of the Offices of Research and Development, Technical Collection, Development and Engineering, Technical Service, the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, and the National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC). The four designated files are found in most, but not all, of the DS&T components. The Foreign Broadcast Information Service, for instance, has no files designated as exempt under the FOIA. The National Photographic Interpretation Center does not have an exemption for Signal Intelligence while the Office of Technical Service does not have an exemption for Imagery Analysis and Exploitation.

The DS&T does not plan to add any additional files for exemption in 1994. Administrative changes and reorganizations over the past ten years, however, have meant that exempted files from some older components have been merged into newer components. These records will continue to carry their FOIA exemption status. The DS&T, likewise, does not plan to remove any of its four exempt files during this decennial review.

Over the past three weeks, the History Staff has conducted a "spot check" of the DS&T's records. We have examined various project files to see how records fall under the four designated files. We have had the full cooperation of the DS&T staff and discussed the overall records management system with the Directorate's Information Review Officer (IRO). While by no means a thorough search of all of the DS&T records, our brief look at several projects to date confirms the validity of the exempted files in the DS&T. DS&T records are sensitive because of their very nature, the relationship

between CIA and other organizations, as well as the actual intelligence that is derived from DS&T operations. The History Staff's specific recommendations concerning DS&T records will be discussed at the conclusion of my briefing.

As stated previously, the DS&T conducts a search of its records for the bulk of its FOIA requests. The Directorate does not automatically exclude any records from FOIA searches with the exception of requests for imagery. Following a search by the components, the DS&T IRO then determines if the documents fall under the four general exemption files. At this point, the IRO ascertains whether to review the records under FOIA or to deny the request based on the current exemption regulations. While the 1984 law permits the DS&T to exempt without review those FOIA requests that fall within the four files, the Directorate still conducts searches for the majority of requests that it receives.

The DS&T has taken steps, however, to remove certain records from its four exempted files. The D&ST now conducts FOIA searches and releases material on the research, development, and operations of U-2 and SR-71 reconnaissance aircraft, both of which were formerly in exempted files. Likewise, the DS&T is currently reviewing a classified history of those programs under FOIA. There may be similar progress with NPIC records of early reconnaissance programs and imagery if the President issues a proposed Executive Order dealing with overhead reconnaissance.

The History Staff does not propose to recommend any changes in the DS&T's four FOIA exemption files as established in 1984. The History Staff, however, may well recommend that some older DS&T records that fall within these four files be opened for FOIA review. The fact that the Directorate now reviews FOIA requests dealing with the U-2 and the SR-71 is a positive step. We hope that we can identify other older records in the DS&T's designated files that should be opened for review.